

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DUBLIN 00183 051450Z

46

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-14 OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

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FM AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5367

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL BELFAST

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EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, EI

SUBJ: HILLSBORO/UGH MEETING REINFORCES NI SOULUTION

1. ON FEBRUARY 1, PM COSGRAVE AND SEVEN OF HIS MINISTERS FLEW TO NI FOR MEETING WITH EQUIVALENT GROUP FROM NI EXECUTIVE. MEETING TOOK PLACE AT HILLSBORO, UGH NEAR BELFAST. IT WAS FIRST SUCH NORTH/SOUTH MEETING IN RECENT YEARS AND OF COURSE, FIRST EVER TO BE HELD BETWEEN DUBLIN AND POWER-SHARING NI EXECUTIVE. WE HAVE NOT YET HAD BRIEFING, DUBLIN PRESS REACTION IS FAVORABLE. WE ASSUME THAT MAIN PURPOSE OF MEETING WAS TO SHOW SKEPTICAL CONSITUENTS ON BOTH SIDES, BUT EXPECIALLY IN NORTH, THAT DUBLIN AND BELFAST CAN WORK TOGETHER UNDER TERMS OF EARLIER SUNNINGDALE AGREEMENT. A GOOD DEAL OF CONVINCING IS STILL NEEDED.

2. IN PUBLISHED RECORD OF CONFERENCE, THREE THEMES ARE STRESSED: "STATUS" OF NI, PROGRESS OF COMMISSION ON LAW ENFORCEMENT, AND FUNCTIONS OF COUNCIL OF IRELAND. IN ALL THREE AREAS EACH SIDE

APPARENTLY TRIED TO MAKE IT EASY FOR THE OTHER.

--- FAULKNER SAID THAT HE EXPECTS STATEMENT ON "STATUS" ISSUE FROM COSGRAVE WHEN MATTER IS NO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 02 DUBLIN 00183 051450Z

LONGER "SUB JUDICE" (BEFORE COURTS IN REPUBLIC).

FAULKNER EASED THE TASK, HOWEVER, WHEN HE SAID THAT HE EXPECTED COSGRAVE TO REMOVE "AMBIGUITY" ABOUT NI STATUS BY CONFIRMING WHAT WAS SAID AT SUNNINGDALE. COSGRAVE SHOULD BE ABLE TO HANDLE THAT.

--- FAULKNER ALSO SAID THAT HE EXPECTED COMMISSION ON LAW ENFORCEMENT TO MAKE AT LEAST AN INTERIM REPORT BEFORE FORMAL MEETING TO RATIFY SUNNINGDALE AGREEMENT. THIS IS FAR EASIER THAN TRADITIONAL UNIONIST DEMAND FOR EXTRADITION OF FUGITIVES. AGAIN, GOI SHOULD BE ABLE TO ACCEPT.

--- COSGRAVE CLAIMED THAT DISCUSSIONS ON FUNCTIONS OF COUNCIL OF IRELAND HAD MOVED ALONG SATISFACTORILY. THIS IS BASIS DUBLIN REQUIREMENT. NEWSPAPERS NOW SUGGEST THAT FORMAL MEETING TO ESTABLISH COUNCIL OF IRELAND WILL PROBABLY BE DELAYED UNTIL MARCH. DUBLIN WOULD HAVE PREFERRED EARLIER MEETING BUT WILL PROBABLY BE ABLE TO ACCEPT DELAY.

3. COMMENT: SUBJECT TO CORRECTION ON BASIS OF INSIDE KNOWLEDGE, WE GATHER THAT NI AND DUBLIN GOVTS ARE SPARING NO EFFORT TO MAKE SUNNINGDALE SOLUTION WORK. THERE ARE, OF COURSE, STILL IMPORTANT FORCES OUTSIDE THESE GOVTS.
MOORE

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